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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q79657

Kazutoshi SHIBA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/767,335

Group Art Unit: 2814

Confirmation No.: 5230

Examiner: Shrinivas H. RAO

Filed: January 30, 2004

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2006, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4-8 have been allowed. Claims 9-10 have been withdrawn. Claims 11-14 include allowable subject matter, but depend from Claim 1.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,576,345 to Van Cleemput *et al.* ("Van Cleemput") in view of Applicants' admitted prior art.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.